

Hawaii MARINE

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Marines to train amidst controversy

MCB Hawaii
Public Affairs Office

MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION — Today, Marines from India Company, 3rd Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment, known as “America’s Battalion,” are deep inside the reservation here to practice live-fire operations in a unique capacity that cannot be found anywhere

else in Hawaii. But even the tough training going on in the valley may not prove to be as difficult as simply getting permission to use the area. After putting forth a training package proposal that was approved by U.S. Army officials and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, both of which run Makua Valley, EarthJustice (a nonprofit public interest law firm) and the Hawaii-

based cultural preservation group Malama Makua filed a motion with a federal judge to stop the Marines from training at Makua. EarthJustice and Malama Makua claimed that the proposed live-fire training presented a threat to endangered species that call the training area home. The groups claimed that training proposed by the Marines violated specific

agreements made by the Army to limit the quantity of troops and ordnance that could be used in the training area. More specifically, they argued the Marines had planned to fire too many mortars and SMAW (shoulder-fired multi-purpose assault weapon) rounds, which would create an undue fire hazard.

See **MAKUA**, A-6

Lava Dogs on the prowl



After firing his rounds during the mechanized live-fire with amphibious assault vehicles Tuesday, Lance Cpl. Jaime P. Cajamarca, a rifleman with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, explains where the assault squad will be attacking from. See the full story, next week.

Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Foal Eagle profits MAG

Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

CAMP HUMPHREYS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA — The Republic of South Korea is commonly referred to as the “Land of the Morning Calm.” However, it was anything but calm when 33 devil dogs from Marine Aircraft Group 24 (based at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay) arrived on the Korean peninsula in support of Exercise Foal Eagle ‘04, March 21. As service members always do, the MAG-24 Marines set foot on the peninsula with the goal of mission accomplishment. “One of the most difficult tasks during Exercise Foal Eagle was learning

See **FOAL EAGLE**, A-6

Coalition works to pacify Fallujah, stop insurgency

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The commander of the Combined Joint Task Force 7 said during a briefing from Baghdad that the coalition would not allow thugs, extremists and terrorists to stop the transition to Iraqi sovereignty or to try to control the country with a violent power play. “Coalition and Iraqi security forces are conducting deliberate, precise and robust combat operations to separate, isolate and destroy the enemy wherever we find him on the battlefield,” said Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, commander of the task force. He said the I Marine Expeditionary Force has “made tremendous progress in restoring legitimate authority to Fallujah.” The Marines launched Operation Vigilant Resolve following the killing of five soldiers north of Fallujah, March 31, and the murder and mutilation of four American private security specialists in Fallujah the same day. “Once the security situation in Fallujah is stabilized, the citizens in Fallujah will find no better friends than the Marines of the I Marine

Expeditionary Force,” Sanchez said. He said the Marines are experts at civil-military operations and will bring substantial resources to improve the quality of life in Fallujah. Also, the coalition forces are allowing food and humanitarian supplies into the city. In the central and southern areas of Iraq, coalition forces have launched another operation dubbed “Resolute Sword.” This operation is aimed directly at the militia forces of Muqtada al-Sadr. Pentagon officials said Sadr is a minor Shiia cleric who is launching a power play to increase his stature in the country as transfer of sovereignty approaches. The cleric is anti-American and has urged followers to kill coalition forces. An Iraqi judge issued a warrant for Sadr’s arrest in conjunction with the brutal murder of a rival Shiia cleric last year. “In Baghdad, our forces remain on the offensive, conducting intelligence-based raids to destroy Sadr’s militia as they attempt to intimidate the population,” Sanchez said. “Despite attempts to incite violence, attack government facilities and disrupt the lives of Iraqis, coalition units are in firm control of Baghdad.”

Aloha to Pearl Harbor veteran

Karen S. Spangler
Hawaii Navy News

MOILIILI — In his green-and-white flowered aloha shirt, topped by a jaunty survivor’s cap, the grizzled and mustached Dick Fiske was a familiar face at the Arizona Memorial. This 82-year-old World War II veteran, who had not only survived the attack on Pearl Harbor but also the Battle of Iwo Jima, died peacefully in his sleep, at his home on Oahu, April 2. Fiske had often recalled, for documentaries and books, his recollections of the day the Navy’s fleet, moored in the waters of Pearl Harbor, was attacked by the Japanese, Dec. 7, 1941. Born in Boston, Mass., on March 26, 1922, the former Marine bugler had just finished playing “To the Colors” when the attack began. As Japanese torpedoes and aerial bombs rained down on the battleship USS West Virginia, the order came to abandon ship. Fiske swam to Ford Island. In 12 minutes, the West Virginia sank. Fiske went on to serve with the 5th Marine Division in Iwo Jima, in February 1945, and as an enlisted crew chief during the Korean and Vietnam Wars with the U.S. Air Force in 1948. He retired from the Air Force in 1973.



U.S. Navy photo

Fiske spent his later years building bonds between Japanese and American World War II veterans.

In January 2003, he was among 10 volunteers honored by U.S. Interior Secretary Gale Norton and Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle for contributing more than 3,000 hours of his time to the Arizona Memorial, of which he had served since 1982. For decades after the attack, the survivor harbored hatred against the Japanese attackers for the deaths of his friends and fellow Sailors, but in later years, he worked to build bonds between Japanese and American veterans of World War II. In 1996, he received the Order of the Rising Sun with Silver Rays from the Japanese emperor. Fiske is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carmen; a son; two daughters; a granddaughter and a grandson.

MCBH News Briefs

Base Chapel Posts Holy Week Events

The base community is invited to attend the following Holy Week services, which are held in celebration of the last events in the life of Jesus Christ prior to his resurrection.

- Good Friday, Today
11:45 a.m., Roman Catholic Stations of the Cross
6 p.m., Protestant Good Friday Service
7 p.m., Roman Catholic Solemn Good Friday Liturgy
- Holy Saturday, April 10
7 p.m., Roman Catholic Easter Vigil
- Easter Sunday, April 11
6 a.m., Protestant Easter Sunrise Service at the Rifle Range
8 a.m., Protestant Liturgical Easter Service
9:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass of the Resurrection
11 a.m., Protestant Contemporary Easter Service

Mokapu Road Repairs Begin

A major sewer line repair project is underway and expected to last approximately four months aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The project will replace the sewer line from the intersection of Mokapu Road and “E” Street running to the intersection of “E” and 5th Street, as well as along the north end of the Dewey Square parade field.

Lane closures along Mokapu, “E,” and 5th streets will occur during certain phases of the project, so motorists should anticipate some delays or plan alternate routes. For more information, contact Lee Yamamoto at 257-2171, ext. 222.

H-3 to Close for Four Days

The Honolulu-bound lanes of the H-3 freeway will be closed to vehicular traffic on April 17 – 18 and May 1 – 2, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., for routine tunnel maintenance. For more details, call Scott at Hawaii’s Department of Transportation at 831-6712.

Hawaii MARINE

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POW/MIA remains to return

Family members of POW/MIA asked to provide DNA samples

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Press Release

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Two teams of specialists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command here deployed Monday to North Korea to recover remains believed to be those of American soldiers missing in action from the Korean War. This mission will mark the first time JPAC has ever supplied its teams via the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Traditionally equipment has been flown in.

One joint team will operate near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea hoping to recover remains believed to be those of U.S. Army soldiers from

the 7th Infantry Division who fought against Chinese forces in November through December 1950. Approximately 1,100 Americans are unaccounted for from battles of the Chosin Campaign.

A second team will conduct recovery operations in Unsan County, about 60 miles north of Pyongyang. This area was the site of battles between communist forces and the U.S. Army’s 1st Cavalry and 25th Infantry Divisions in November 1950.

This is the 32nd Joint Recovery Operation in North Korea. Of the 88,000 U.S. service members missing in action from all conflicts, more than 8,100 are from the Korean War.

The U.S. government, the Department of Defense and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command



remain committed to scientific excellence and the fullest possible accounting of all Americans still missing or unaccounted for in defense of the United States.

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command also continues to remind the DoD community that today’s technology allows the command to identify some remains through mitochondrial DNA. If you know of a family member who is from the maternal bloodline of an unaccounted-for service member, ask them to contact the military services to provide a blood sample.

Call the Army at (800) 892-2490, the Air Force at (800) 531-5501, the Navy at (800) 443-9298, or the Marine Corps at (800) 847-1597.

Reserve presence in OIF II to lessen

Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait — Although mobilized Marine reserve personnel are slowly dropping numbers, they’re still playing an active role in Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

The Marine Corps has about 5,148 mobilized reserve Marines, with roughly 1,400 directly supporting OIF II, in Kuwait and Iraq. Reserve forces for OIF II will be at approximately 3,000 for the first rotation and approximately 3,500 for the second rotation.

The Marine Corps Reserves will make up a little more than 10 percent of the 25,000 Marines sent for OIF II, most of which are coming from I Marine Expeditionary Force, with other units coming from II MEF and III MEF.

These numbers are almost a fourth of the reserve force used during OIF I, and reflect the diminishing number of reservists across the Department of Defense.

During OIF, 48 percent of the 40,000 Selected Marine Corps Reserve and Individual Mobilization Augmentation Reserves were mobilized, according to a Reserve Affairs Coordination Mobilization Issues Report released March 12.

So far, the Marine Corps has demobilized 20,760 Marines, but it will keep some reserve Marines in action for longer.

“Reservists are normally activated for 12 months with a max at 24 months,” said Lt. Col. Tom V. Sakievich, reserve integration officer with Marine Forces Reserve West.



Sgt. Rob Henderson

Reserve Staff Sgt. and Atlanta native Jeffery S. Stanhagen, logistics chief with Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, loads plywood into a humvee to build the floor of a gym in Al Asad, Iraq, April 3. Stanhagen, a small business owner, has been mobilized twice since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. He feels the time he has spent in uniform has better equipped him to deal with future clients.

During OIF II, Marines are scheduled to participate in two seven-month rotations. The first rotation started in March and will last until September of 2004, with the second rotation starting in September 2004 until March 2005.

“Reservists are a fully integrated part of I MEF and II MEF,” said Sakievich. “The U.S. Marine Corps could not fully execute without the Marine Reserve.”

Currently, the Marine Corps is authorized to mobilize more than 40,000, but is only using 1,208 indi-

vidual reservists and 3,940 from units and detachments that are activated, according to the RACMI report.

Although the reserve component doesn’t plan on playing as big of a role as it did during OIF, many feel that the reserve presence is still powerful.

“Everywhere you go, everywhere you look, you see reservists,” said Lt. Col. John M. Tolar, current operations officer, Marine Corps Central Command at Camp Doha. “Nothing would be happening around here if it wasn’t for us.”

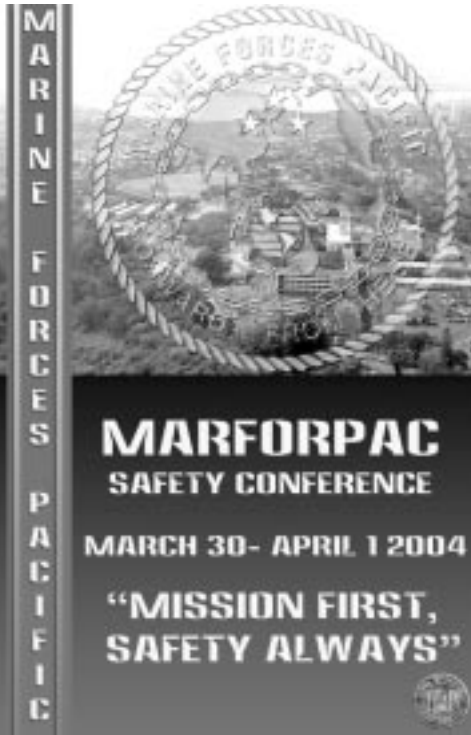
Corps Safety Division reviews base safety

Lance Cpl. Jared Plotts U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H. M. SMITH — The Marine Forces Pacific Safety Division held its biannual Ground Safety Managers Conference at Pollack Theater here, March 30 through April 1.

The three-day conference discussed new safety programs and others already implemented by Marine Forces Pacific units. It provided an opportunity for information sharing and discussion of programs that have or have not been effective within various commands.

Safety managers and safety officers meet twice a year to discuss the successes and shortfalls of safety programs in order to meet the Corps’ 50 percent mishap-reduction goal. The



goal was implemented in 2000 as part of the Commandant’s Safety Campaign.

Since then, the number of on-duty mishaps has improved (except those directly related to the current combat environment), but there’s been a shift from on-duty to off-duty mishaps.

“Our biggest killer is off-duty private motor vehicle accidents, to include motorcycles,” said Keith Glavac, ground safety manager, MarForPac.

“Last year, a lot of mishaps occurred while Marines were on duty. This was in part, due to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Our big concern [though] is not to see a sharp rise in off-duty mishaps now that Marines have returned home.”

Units may nullify or implement

programs to help with the future of Marine Corps safety and the future of Marines.

“One of the keys to improving mishap prevention in the Marine Corps is communication across the board,” said the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy, Ms. Connie Dewitt, who also attended the conference and spoke about safety the first day. “This is an opportunity for us to come together as a team and strive for better safety,” she explained.

Dewitt also echoed that emphasis on mishap prevention from unit leaders has improved since previous years, which is a positive development.

Although all mishaps are taken seriously, there have only been two MarForPac on-duty mishaps this fiscal year, and meetings like the Ground Safety Managers Conference play a big part in reducing numbers by improving existing safety programs and re-emphasizing on-duty safety awareness procedures.

With more and more Marines being deployed to support global operations, commanders are stressing safety procedures with increasing vigilance.



Marines and Sailors get exposed to live M67 grenade training in the ROK

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Combat Correspondent

KANSAS RANGE, WESTERN CORRIDOR, Republic of Korea — The average service support Marine or Sailor may spend years in the military without ever experiencing any special weapons training other than the M16A2 service rifle, mainly due to timing and the nature of military occupational specialties.

In an effort to widen the spectrum of their personnel’s experiences, Combat Service Support Groups 77 and 33, from Hawaii and Okinawa, Japan, sent more than 90 Marines and Sailors to live M67 grenade training here, March 22-23.

“Training like this gives our Marines an opportunity to experience using grenades, which does not happen very often,” said Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Montano, operations chief for CSSD-77. “In this day and time, with current events as they are, it doesn’t matter if a Marine is in the rear or on the frontline. He will experience combat at some point.

“So, we want to expose them to this type of training as often as possible to prepare them for those situations,” Montano continued.

Before the Marines and Sailors could throw any live grenades, they were required to complete six different training stations using practice grenades filled with only the detonation fuse. Although the practice grenades did not explode, they still made a satisfying pop, followed by a puff of smoke, giving the Marines and Sailors a small taste of what was to come.

The first of the six practice targets was used to measure the throwing ability of the service member. The service member was required to throw the grenade a set distance from the training pit for safety reasons. Once all successfully threw two grenades past that point, they moved on to the rest of the targets.

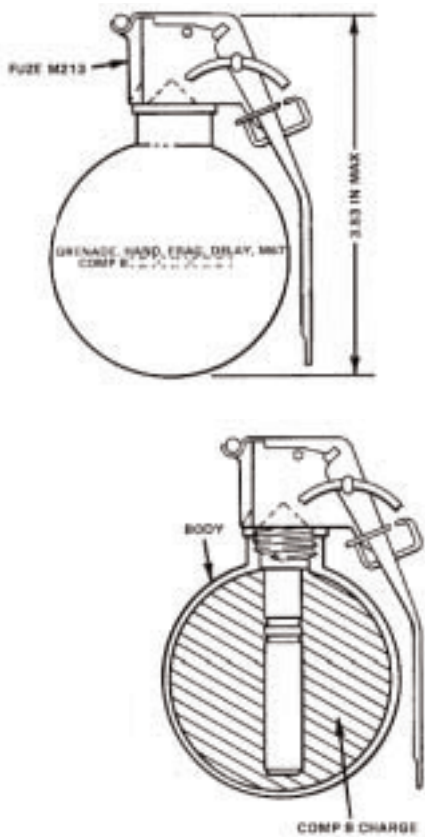
Marines and Sailors learned how to aim their grenades for a window of a building, and how to toss them into fighting holes and trenches. They also learned how to take out a bunker or disable a vehicle with the grenades.

“Most of these Marines and Sailors have not gotten to work with live grenades since training camp, because they are not in the infantry,” said Montano. “So, when this chance came up, we made sure everyone had a chance — from cooks and drivers, to supply clerks and corpsmen. We wanted to expose them to what they may face in future missions.”

After all the preparatory training was completed, each service member threw at least two live grenades into the firing pit. Many Marines and Sailors found it so enjoyable that they stepped back in line to throw again. By the end of the day, more than 250 live grenades had been expended.

“This training was a lot of fun, and was a good break from the mundane responsibilities we have back at base,” said Cpl. Byron Walters, a postal clerk from Headquarters Bn., MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. “I took as many turns as I could. It’s comforting to know that if we are ever in a combat situation, we have more training under our belt than just the M16.”

The M67 Grenade



Body: Steel sphere.

Filler: 6.5 ounces of Composition B.

Fuze: M213.

Weight: 14 ounces.

Color and Markings: Olive drab body with a single-yellow band at the top. Markings are in yellow.

Capabilities: The average service member can throw the M67 grenade 35 meters effectively. The effective casualty-producing radius is 15 meters and the killing radius is 5 meters. Fragmentation can disperse as far away as 230 meters.

Lance Cpl. Otoniel Molina, a motor vehicle operator, with Transport Support Co., CSSD-77, makes a practice throw during M67 grenade training, March 22, at the Kansas Range, Western Corridor, Republic of Korea.



Word on the Street

What do you think the Easter Bunny looks like?



“I think he looks like a gigantic white rabbit.”

Megan Kallus, 8



“A little white bunny that hops around with a basket.”

Leah Anderson, 2, and Nichole Anderson, 6



“A big, blue bunny with little ears, and that eats rabbit food.”

Kiani Cruz, 4



“Soft, white and little. He hops around and eats carrots.”

Tiana Melcon, 6



“Just like me. Velvety, gray and handsome as heck.”

Grasshopper, 1

Skinny Dragons keep busy

Safety fair concept promotes greater understanding and participation

Dragons assume the ready alert role

Lt. j.g. Shawn Spooner
*Patrol Squadron 4,
Assistant Public Affairs Officer*

Recently, the “Skinny Dragons” of Patrol Squadron 4 conducted a Safety Fair as part of their ongoing safety program. Typically, the squadron holds a safety stand down that includes formal group lectures from the Safety Department and other invited guests, including the police and fire departments.

This time, in order to create a higher level of understanding and awareness within the command, each work center selected a safety topic and then presented it to the other squadron Sailors. The “safety fair” concept allowed Sailors from each work center to learn more about safety awareness by presenting their topic to everyone in the command.

“By visiting the ten safety booths, we get more involvement from each member of the command vice just hearing lectures,” said Lt. Cmdr. Mike Granger, VP-4’s safety officer. “Each shop is allowed to take ownership of their specific safety booth.

“Subject matter experts were generated to give training to the other Sailors visiting the booth.

It’s a great way for squadron personnel to view other work centers’ safety precautions.”

Maintenance and support personnel rotated through 10 safety booths in Hanger 104. The first booth included a static display of a P-3 aircraft and was used for emergency egress training for non-aircrew.

“Aircrew members go through emergency egress training at VP-30 during their Fleet Replacement Squadron training and annual squadron training. However, maintenance personnel do not receive this training,” Granger explained. “If an emergency arises while maintenance personnel are onboard the aircraft, this training will help them safely egress the aircraft.”

Other booths included electrical and battery safety; the safety radius of an aircraft; tire, wheel, hydraulic and flight controls safety; alcohol awareness; hazardous material (HAZMAT); and personal protective equipment safety.

Aircrew personnel received refresher training in the safe and proper operation of the P-3C life raft, the life preserver unit and the Imperial wet suit, which would be used in the event a

crew had to ditch the aircraft in cold water or harsh weather conditions. Additionally, they received training on the PRC-149 survival radio (the Navy’s replacement radio for its current survival radio), the PRC-90, SV-2 survival vest and equipment, A/P22P-21 thin pack parachute, and the Manual Reverse Osmosis Desalinator.

After the safety fair, family members of VP-4 Sailors were invited to attend a family day. They toured a P-3 aircraft and squadron spaces.

“The goal is to give our families insight into what we do, day in and day out,” said Granger.

After the tour, family members enjoyed a picnic — Skinny Dragon style. Two Astro Jumps were set up for the kids to enjoy, plus adults had some options as well. They could “play” in the Big Bouncy boxing ring or go back to medieval times in the Gladiator Joust.

All in all, the activities proved to be a fun end to an informative day.



Lt. j.g. Shawn Spooner
*Patrol Squadron 4, Assistant
Public Affairs Officer*

April 1, the Patrol Squadron 4 “Skinny Dragons” assumed the duties of the ready alert and hosting squadron for MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, from the “Golden Eagles” of VP-9. Historically, a ready alert squadron is called upon to assist the Coast Guard for distress calls and possible search and rescue missions, and to provide a rapid response capability for contingency operations worldwide, including Homeland Defense.

Assumption of the ready alert brings with it additional commitments and responsibilities for the squadron.

The ready alert aircrew is defined as a fully mission capable P-3 aircraft manned with a full tactical crew, able to launch within the prescribed timeline, depending

on alert status. The time frame for launch depends on real-world readiness conditions in effect, and the status of the Coast Guard Long Range Intercept Guard.

Launching the ready alert on time takes a coordinated effort between the assigned aircrew, and operations, maintenance and airfield operations departments.

The hosting squadron is responsible for visiting aircrews’ operational, administrative and logistical requests.

This month, the Skinny Dragons will host several reserve patrol squadrons including VP-65, VP-94 and VP-69 when they travel to Hawaii to participate in a live missile exercise at Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai.

This July, VP-4 eagerly anticipates hosting international squadron detachments from Japan, Australia, South Korea and Canada, for the Rim of the Pacific 2004 Exercise, better known as RIMPAC.

MAKUA, From A-1

Though Hawaii has had one of the wettest winters in memory for some, and Makua Valley is more green and lush than at any time in recent memory, the fear of fire was enough to convince the federal judge to rule against the Marines’ proposed training package.

In a story published by the “Honolulu Star Bulletin,” the judge is quoted as saying, “Everyone acknowledges the need for military training, but [in the Endangered Species Act] Congress has charged the court with giving the highest priority to protecting endangered species.”

In the same article, EarthJustice spokesperson David Henkin said, “We would hope that they [the Marines] would reconsider their current insistence on pursuing this type of destructive training [in Makua]. We really would encourage the military to rethink its strategy.”

Adjust the Marines did. They altered their training to meet the judge’s ruling, so that they could still get in some of the vital training, although not the complete package com-

manders hoped to provide their Marines.

Marines who are training in the area will be serving on the tip of the spear with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit later this year. Training of the magnitude required is an absolute necessity to provide the Marines — who are only a terrorist attack away from battle — the skills they need to succeed in combat.

The 3/3 unit also fills several important positions here in Hawaii, including a position as a terrorism or disaster response force, part of Joint Rear Area Coordinator-Hawaii, for Hawaii Homeland Defense.

“It’s the U.S. Army’s range, and we are going to follow whatever guidelines and regulations that the Army prescribes for us,” said Marine spokesperson Maj. Chris Hughes, “but, it is important to remember that Makua Valley is the cultural site and home to endangered and threatened plants and species *because* of the Army’s management — not in spite of it.

“The Army spends about two million dollars each year on Makua Valley alone,” Hughes added.

FOAL EAGLE, From A-1

to be proficient with all data systems,” said Capt. Thaddeus Berry, assistant future operations officer for MAG-24. “Their attitude out there was definitely solution orientated,” he explained, saying that the Marines once again went above and beyond minimal standards.

Before departing to Korea, however, the MAG-24 Marines readied themselves for the challenges of Foal Eagle with a command post exercise. They completed several tactical exercises in December and also established a command operations center during the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise on the “Big Island” of Hawaii.

Their training proved invaluable when MAG-24 sent aircraft to support the Korean Integrated Training Program, where U.S.

Marines get the chance to work hand-in-hand with their allies in the ROK Marine Corps.

Additionally, Marines provided support to ground troops and proved capable of rapidly deploying to a distant base and quickly and efficiently setting up a command operations center.

“This exercise gave MAG-24 the chance to work with many of our adjacent units, in a manner that is difficult in Hawaii,” said Berry. “We were able to see firsthand how the different units within the Marine Air Wing are capable of operating with a large number of players.

“We also got to work up close and personal with many of our counterparts face-to-face — and not as some name on an e-mail or voice on the phone,” he continued. “Many intangible benefits were gained from this experience.”